

LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Item No. 1.D
Mtg. Date April 18, 2017
Dept. Public Works

Item Title: **Preparation and Submittal of the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program Grant Application**

Staff Contact: Stephanie Boyce, Management Analyst and Miranda Evans, Management Analyst

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution (**Attachment B**) approving the preparation and submittal of the Urban Greening Grant Program Application.

Item Summary:

The Urban Greening Grant Program is funded by Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) and administered by the State of California Natural Resources Agency. In 2016, SB 859 was signed into law authorizing the expenditure of \$1.2 billion in Cap and Trade revenues for projects aimed to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The California Resources Agency was allocated \$80 million to its Urban Greening Program specifically for green infrastructure that reduces GHG emissions by sequestering carbon, decreasing energy consumption and reducing vehicle miles traveled while also transforming the built environment into places that are sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities. These projects will establish and enhance parks and open spaces, using natural solutions to improving air and water quality and reducing energy consumption, and creating more walkable and bikeable trails.

Staff identified six (of the seven total) segments of the Connect Main Street Project design as an eligible project under the grant requirements. This portion of the Connect Main Street Project (**Attachment A – Exhibit 1**) will transform a 1.3 mile-long corridor of Main Street into a linear park that will incorporate native plant palettes, park related amenities and activity areas, a safe walkable pedestrian path and bikeable trails for all users. The linear park will support Connect Main Street's vision by connecting people, places and activities for generations to come.

Staff requests that the City Council adopts a resolution (**Attachment B**) approving the preparation and submittal of the City's application for the Urban Greening Grant Program to the California Natural Resources Agency no later than May 1, 2017.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Environmental Review:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

Public Information:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 500 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting | |

Attachments:

Attachment A

A. Staff Report

B. Resolution

LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 1.D

Mtg. Date April 18, 2017

Item Title: **Preparation and Submittal of the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program Grant Application**

Staff Contact: Stephanie Boyce, Management Analyst and Miranda Evans, Management Analyst

Discussion:

In September 2016, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) authorized the expenditures of \$1.2 billion in Cap and Trade revenues and the California Natural Resources Agency was allocated \$80 million to its Urban Greening Program (UGP). As defined in the grant guidelines, the California Natural Resources Agency is the agency responsible for developing and implementing the program.

The grant provides funding to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and provides multiple additional benefits, including, but not limited to, a decrease in air and water pollution or a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy. Eligible projects will result in the conversion of an existing built environment into green space that uses natural and green infrastructure approaches to create sustainable and vibrant communities. Project areas authorized by UGP must be located within a .5 mile radius of a disadvantaged community and connected to an urban area.

Proposed Project

Staff took into account the expected outcomes of the UGP and available project areas in the City and identified six segments of the Connect Main Street Project as eligible sites under the grant requirements. The project is strategically designed to provide the community with safe routes for travel between residences, commercial centers, workplaces, schools, and neighboring jurisdictions. The proposed segments for UGP funding include the remainder of Broadway to Central Ave., Central to San Miguel, San Miguel to Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon to Main Street Cul-de-Sac, Main Street Cul-de-Sac to San Pasqual and San Pasqual to Massachusetts.

If the resolution is approved, staff will submit an application to the California Natural Resources Agency for consideration. If awarded funds, almost two miles of new park and green space will be constructed along Main Street. The park space created is anticipated to comply with UGP priorities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating a safe, walkable pedestrian path and bikeable trail that will connect the community to public transportation and the City's Downtown Village. The landscaping proposed is significant and will sequester CO₂ emissions and assist the City with reducing greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing the natural environment, in compliance with SB 859 statutory requirements.

Grant Limitations

Eligible UGP projects must achieve one of two measurable benefits:

1. Acquire, create, enhance, or expand community parks and green spaces, and/or
2. Use natural systems or systems that mimic natural systems to achieve multiple benefits.

Attachment A

Staff believes Connect Main Street will achieve both measurable benefits and will comply with SB 859 statutory requirements. The focus of the grant is urban greening, and as such, project priorities will need to be shifted to allow staff to comply with the grant requirements, if funding is awarded. Upon review of the grant requirements, staff anticipates the following deviations from the approved conceptual plans will be necessary:

- Trees to be funded by the grant cannot exceed 15-gallons in size whereas 24" box trees were originally proposed in the project's conceptual landscape plan;
- Recreational amenities are not considered eligible for funding under the grant requirements;
- The thematic and artistic elements of the project, such as gateway signs and interpretive panels, are not considered eligible for funding under the grant requirements.

Additional funding for Connect Main Street's recreational, artistic and thematic elements will be pursued as future grant opportunities become available. This approach is in accordance with the direction staff received from the City Council in 2016 to construct the project from north to south, first in segments then in layers. It is notable that under the grant requirements, up to 25% of the funds awarded may be used towards the planning and design of the project. Staff expects the full 25% allocation will be required to take the existing 30% construction documents to 100% completion.

Estimated Project Cost

Staff's cost estimate for this project is \$7,317,962. An estimated project cost breakdown is listed below:

Description	Amount
Design Costs	\$1,238,585
Rehabilitation Costs	\$4,954,339
Const. Mgt./Inspection/Permits	\$459,769
Project Contingency ~ 10%	\$665,269
Total	\$7,317,962

Submittal of Grant Application

The UGP anticipates one funding cycle with approximately \$76 million available to award in that cycle of which no matching funds are required. Staff expects this to be a highly competitive grant program. There are no minimum grant amounts for this grant program and maximum award amounts are not specified either. Staff's cost estimate for this project is an estimate based on the 30% design completed by Michael Baker International in 2016. Staff remains cautiously optimistic that the final project cost will remain the same or decrease.

After completing the grant application, staff will submit the package to the California Natural Resources Agency for review. The California Natural Resources Agency is expected to review and approve all grant applications by Fall 2017.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopts a resolution (**Attachment B**) approving the preparation and submittal of the Urban Greening Grant Application.

Attachment A – Exhibit 1



RESOLUTION NO. 2017-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS URBAN GREENING PROGRAM)

WHEREAS, the Connect Main Street Project will create a community corridor that supports active lifestyles and transportation choices in the City by providing a safe, beautiful, and sustainable linear parkway to connect people, places, and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Project area is an approximate two-mile long corridor that runs parallel and to the west of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Orange Trolley Line from Broadway to the northern terminus of Akins Avenue and includes private properties, existing public rights-of-way (ROW) within or adjacent to Main Street, utility easement areas, and an adjacent drainage channel within the City of Lemon Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Connect Main Street Project along Main Street between Broadway and Massachusetts Avenue, an area approximately 1.3 miles long, falls within the disadvantaged community designation and is an eligible project site under the Urban Greening Program requirements; and

WHEREAS, the cost to improve said segments of the Connect Main Street Project is beyond the City's financial capacity; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to apply for a grant for State financial assistance through the Urban Greening Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the grant are to reduce GHG emissions by sequestering carbon, decreasing energy consumption and reducing vehicle miles traveled; and

WHEREAS, the identified project is estimated to cost \$7,317,962 to complete; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Connect Main Street Project;
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and

Attachment B

3. Certifies that applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and
7. Appoints the City Manager or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

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